(d) and (e) In view of the Government's Common Minimum Programme, the issue regarding the feasibility of revival of closed Fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings based on market demand and their techno-economic viability has been entrusted to Projects and Development India Limited. Separately, GAIL has initiated action for commissioning a detailed Feasibility Report Study for commercial implementation of Coal Gassification Process.

Restarting closed fertilizer industries

†1625. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restart the closed fertilizers industries;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) the total number of employees rendered jobless on account of closure of the said fertilizer industries; and

(d) by when the said fertilizer industries are proposed to be restarted separately?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) In the light of the Government's Common Minimum Programme (CMP), the issue regarding the feasibility of revival of the closed Fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) based on market demand and their techno-economic viability has been entrusted to Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL) , a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Department of Fertilizers.

(c) The sick fertilizer PSUs *viz.* Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC); Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI), Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd. (PPCL) and a part of Projects and Development India Ltd. (PDIL) have closed as these were not found techno-economically viable. In pursurance of the Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) floated by these PSUs, 12,568 employees have been released on VSS as on 1.11.2004 by them.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.